

Quarterly Report to the Region

January to March 2020



**Regional
Development**
Australia

ILLAWARRA

Activities

- Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions
- Support Investment Attraction activities to grow private sector investment in the Illawarra region
- Support Government Programs through promoting grant opportunities and supporting community organisations with proposals
- Undertake a watching brief on critical issues and risks, especially those of importance to the Illawarra region's sustainability
- Provide evidence-based advice to Government on critical regional development issues

Our Business Plan on a Page was launched in July 2019 which highlights our top 5 projects for this financial year, along with our activities and strategic priorities.

RDA Illawarra's Overarching Strategy can be found on our [website](#)



Projects

- Deliver the Leadership Illawarra Program**
- Wollongong City Deal Collaborative is strengthened, and Federal Government announces Wollongong City Deal**
- Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Project (WSEC re-development) – Venues NSW ISEP Project progresses to Business Case**
- Regional Skilled Migration program implemented in Illawarra Region to address skill shortages**
- Start a Regional Renaissance**

RDA Illawarra

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Industry



Infrastructure



Integration

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES

1. COVID-19 disruption
2. Illawarra-Shoalhaven City Deal progresses
3. Geelong benchmarking visit learnings
4. Port Kembla Gas Import Terminal Modification approved
5. Leadership Illawarra Program 2018-2020 cohort go past half-way of 2-year journey



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Integration

COVID-19 in the Illawarra

Activity: Evidence-based intelligence to Government

COVID-19 has disrupted individuals, businesses and the Illawarra region, as well as the world. RDA Illawarra have provided regional intelligence to the federal government. This process is essentially 'live', with our Minister Marino hosting teleconferences three times a week across the country – gathering grass roots regional intelligence on what's working and what's not. We have also established weekly COVID-19 eNews and updated our website and other platforms on government stimulus and information.

Assistance for Businesses

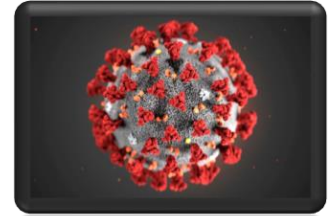
- [Support for Businesses](#)
- [Support for Business Loans](#)
- [Australian Taxation Office](#)
- [NSW State Revenue Office](#)

Assistance for Individuals

- [Support for individuals and households](#)
- [Centrelink](#)
- [Australian Taxation Office](#)
- [Fair Work Ombudsman](#)

Information on COVID-19

- [Australian Government](#)
- [NSW Government](#)
- [Australian Government - Department of Health](#)
- [NSW Health](#)
- [Smart Traveler](#)
- [Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions](#)



The Government is rolling out comprehensive, targeted assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and we want businesses who are looking for information to be supported.

The Business Hotline (132 846) will be expanded to provide specialised advisers and extended hours to support small and medium businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Operations at the www.business.gov.au Contact Centre will increase from five days per week to seven days per week answering calls from 7.00am to 11.00am AEST.



Wollongong City Deal progresses

Activity: Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions

The last two months have been exciting and productive for the City Deals initiative, with the renaming of the project to **Illawarra-Shoalhaven City Deal** which now increases the City Deal Collective to include four LGAs. 40 stakeholders agreed to a list of regional projects at a Consensus Workshop in March, resulting in the overall Illawarra-Shoalhaven City Deal now comprising over \$500M of transformative projects for the region.





Geelong Benchmarking visit

Activity: Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions



During March, Debra Murphy (CEO RDAI) and Tania Brown (COO SMART Infrastructure Facility) undertook a benchmarking visit to Geelong, Victoria.

We were welcomed warmly by Geelong Council, Regional Development Victoria, Deakin University, RDA Barwon South West, G21 and the Committee for Geelong. We learnt a lot from the experiences of Geelong, who have secured billions of dollars for regional development initiatives, including Faster Rail and a City Deal. There are many similarities between Geelong (regionally) and the Illawarra. We are grateful to Geelong for openly sharing their experiences and learnings with us.

APPROVED - Port Kembla Gas Import Terminal Modification

Support the capability of our existing industry and development of growth industry sectors

The Modification of the Development Consent for Port Kembla Gas Import Terminal has been approved by the NSW Government.

This is great news for the Illawarra region, and will see further activation at the Port of Port Kembla (berth 101). Furthermore, this is great news for NSW as it provides a way to secure NSW with 70 petajoules of natural gas supply from 2022.

We look forward to the commencement of this vital energy project in Port Kembla.





Leadership
illawarra
Program

Leadership Illawarra Program (LIP)



Activity: Next Generation of Illawarra's leaders exhibit strong collaborative behaviours



Spread the word and share your COVID-19 Illawarra Mate story on LIP's "Mateship is Contagious" [Facebook](#) page.

Remember to use the **#mateshipiscontagious** hashtag!



The program is undergoing some re-design in conjunction with the cohort to identify priorities and find innovative and interactive ways to continue to deliver the quality content in challenging times.

Leadership Illawarra Program participants' visit to Greenacres

RDA Illawarra Board

More information on the RDA Illawarra Board members can be found [here](#).

If you have any feedback or insights, please contact us here:

email: admin@rdailawarra.com.au

phone: 02 4258 3610

website: www.rdailawarra.com.au

In response to the escalating impact of the COVID-19 and the uncertainty surrounding the rapidly changing situation, our office at UOW's Innovation Campus will be closed with staff working remotely until further notice.



Linda Davis (Director Director Planning and Environment, Wollongong Council), **Jessica De Angelis** (Director Corporate Governance & Strategy – Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District), **Eddy De Gabriele** (Self Employed), **Greg Doyle** (General Manager – Wollongong City Council), **Joanna Kubota** (Self Employed – Global Solutions Strategies), **Trish McClure** (Director Rural and Regional Planning and Development – TfNSW), **Carey McIntyre** (General Manager – Shellharbour City Council), **Craig Osborne** (Managing Partner – RMB Lawyers), **Mark Roberts** (Senior Manager Strategic Projects – UOW), **Daniel Rowan** (Managing Director – Internetrix), **Mark Sleigh** (General Manager – Destination Wollongong), **Nicky Sloan** (CEO – Community Industry Group), **Milco Stojanoski** (Manager Operations Excellence – BlueScope), **Paul Wellings CBE** (Vice Chancellor, UOW).